

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Applicant has attached a Terminal Disclaimer to this Response to overcome the provisional rejection of Claims 1-37 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 9-19 of U.S. Patent 6,658,469. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 7 - 11, 16 - 20, 25 - 27, and 33 - 37 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 16, 19, 20, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and the rejection of Claims 7-11, 17, 18, 25-27, 33, 34, 36, and 36 under U.S.C. §103(a) are rendered moot. The Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

On pages 8 and 9 of the outstanding Office Action, an indication is provided that Claims 3-6, 12-15, 21-24, and 28-32 are objected to as being respectively dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Claims 3, 12, 21, and 28 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the respective base claims from which they originally depended. The rest of the objected claims depend from one of Claims 3, 12, 21, and 28. Thus, Claims 3-6, 12-15, 21-24, and 28-32 are all now in condition for allowance.

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the assistance provided in placing the present application in condition for allowance.


Early and forthright issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

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